

printhead such that dried ink and debris are ejected through the discharge jets of the printhead, as described at least on page 8, lines 5-9. That is, the force removing the debris and dried ink comes from within the printhead.

Lin is directed to an ink jet printing device that is designed to reduce curl of printed paper by printed either a colorless or colored ink on a backside of the paper. Lin does not disclose or suggest moving of either the front or backside printhead to a non-printing position, priming of a printhead, or pressurizing a printhead.

Ishiguro is directed to a printing device wherein the maintenance station is small, performing multiple functions in the same space. As described in paragraph 0014, the maintenance station includes an aspiration pipe 6 comprising a hollow tube 12 with holes 10 therethrough, wherein the tube is covered with a foam 7 which is in contact with the printhead when maintenance is performed. During maintenance, at least the foam is rotated to first clear foreign matter from the nozzles of the printhead (paragraph 0013). Then, suction is generated through the aspiration pipe 6 which acts through the porous foam 7 to suck ink from the nozzles of the printhead (paragraph 0014). Ishiguro does not disclose or suggest pressurizing the printhead to push out debris, as claimed by Applicants. Instead, Ishiguro applies suction externally to the printhead to pull out ink. Thus, the combination of Lin and Ishiguro does not disclose or suggest all the features of the claimed invention, in particular, a priming position where the printhead is pressurized to a prime pressure sufficient to force a stream of ink through discharge jets of the printhead.


Watanable et al. is directed to a recording unit cartridge, whereby all or a portion of a full-width recording unit can be easily replaced within a printing apparatus. Within the recording unit, the printhead can be moved from a printing to a recovery position, wherein the printhead is activated to print an all ink image, such that the ink is ejected into a reservoir. See col. 9, lines 11-17 and 27-33. Watanable et al. does not disclose or suggest pressurizing the printhead to remove dried ink or debris. Watanable et al. thus does not overcome the deficiencies of Lin in view of Ishiguro because Watanable et al. does not teach, disclose, or suggest at least a printhead having a priming position where the printhead is pressurized to a prime pressure sufficient to force a stream of ink through discharge jets of the printhead.

None of the applied references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest pressurizing the printhead to eject pressurized ink, thereby clearing debris from the nozzle. Thus, none of the references, taken alone or in any combination, discloses or suggests the claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are in order, and are respectfully solicited.

All of claims 1-24 being in condition for allowance for at least the above reasons, reconsideration and prompt action in the form of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner require anything further, or have any questions, the Examiner is asked to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,


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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.